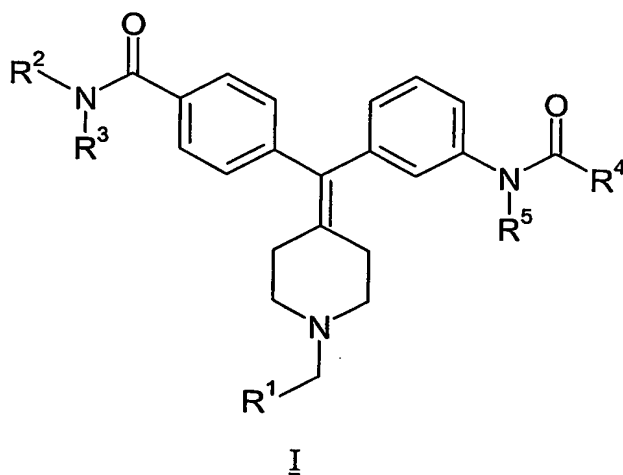


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, diastereomers, enantiomers, or mixtures thereof:



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl and C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, wherein said C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl and C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; triazolyl; pyrrolyl; thiazolyl; and N-oxido-pyridyl, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is optionally

substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are, independently, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl or halogenated C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo.

3. A compound according to claim 1,

10 wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from phenyl; pyridyl; thienyl; furyl; imidazolyl; pyrrolyl; and thiazolyl, wherein R<sup>1</sup> is optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, halogenated C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -CF<sub>3</sub>, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkoxy, chloro, fluoro, bromo, and iodo;

15 R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, and R<sup>4</sup> are, independently, C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl or halogenated C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

4. A compound according to claim 1,

wherein R<sup>1</sup> is selected from phenyl, pyridyl, thienyl, furyl, imidazolyl, pyrrolyl, and thiazolyl;

20 R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are ethyl;

R<sup>4</sup> is C<sub>1-3</sub>alkyl; and

R<sup>5</sup> is hydrogen.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the compound is selected from:

25 4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(thien-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

4-{{3-(acetylamino)phenyl}[1-(2-furylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-N,N-diethylbenzamide;

30 4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(phenylmethyl)-4-piperidinyldiene]methyl]-N,N-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(3-thienylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(3-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

5 4-[[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(4-pyridinylmethyl)-4-piperidinylidene]methyl]-*N,N*-diethyl-benzamide;

4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(pyridin-2-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-*N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(1,3-thiazol-4-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-  
10 *N,N*-diethylbenzamide;

4-{[3-(acetylamino)phenyl][1-(1,3-thiazol-5-ylmethyl)piperidin-4-ylidene]methyl}-  
*N,N*-diethylbenzamide; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1-5 for use as a medicament.

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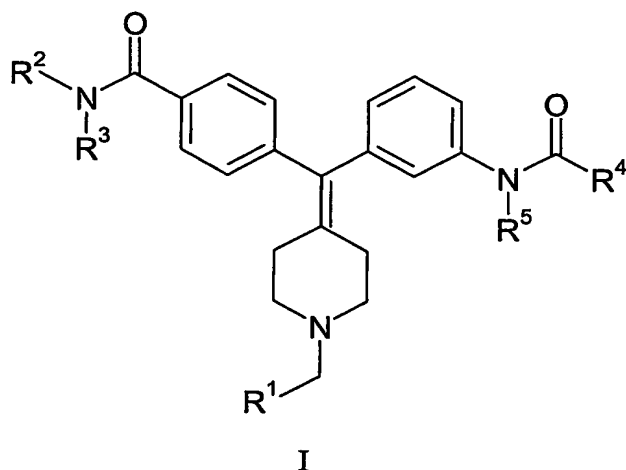
7. The use of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 in the manufacture of a medicament for the therapy of pain, anxiety or functional gastrointestinal disorders.

20 8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1-5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

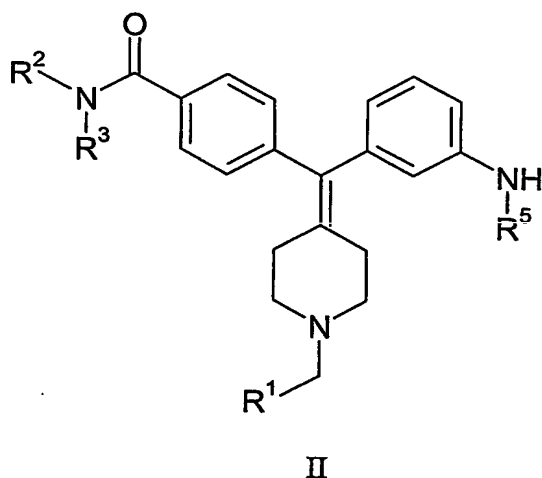
9. A method for the therapy of pain in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective  
25 amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1-5.

10. A method for the therapy of functional gastrointestinal disorders in a warm-blooded animal, comprising the step of administering to said animal in need of such therapy a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of  
30 claims 1-5.

11. A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



5 reacting a compound of formula II with  $X-C(=O)-R^4$  or  $R^4C(=O)-OC(=O)R^4$ :



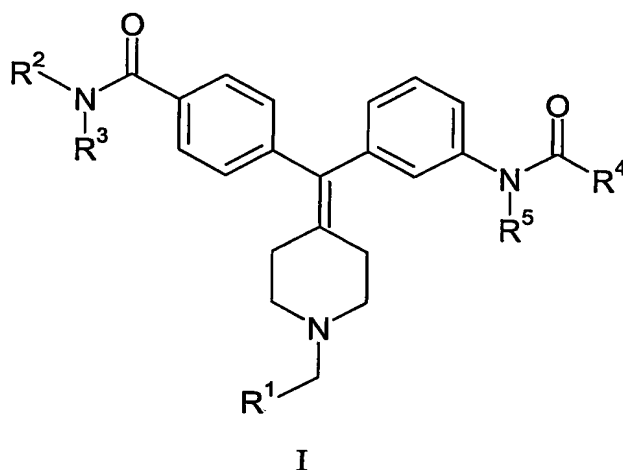
wherein

- $R^1$  is selected from  $C_{6-10}$ aryl and  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl, wherein said  $C_{6-10}$ aryl and  $C_{2-6}$ heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;
- $R^2$ ,  $R^3$ ,  $R^4$  and  $R^5$  are, independently, selected from hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl, wherein said  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl and  $C_{3-6}$ cycloalkyl are optionally substituted

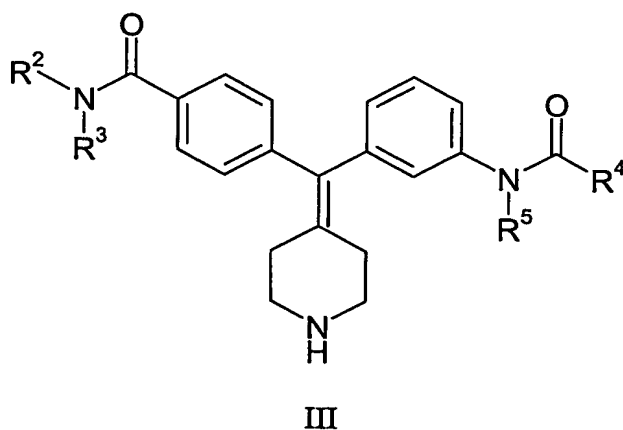
with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and

5 X is Cl, Br or I.

12. A process for preparing a compound of formula I, comprising:



10 reacting a compound of formula III with R<sup>1</sup>-CHO or R<sup>1</sup>-CH<sub>2</sub>X:



wherein

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl and C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl, wherein said C<sub>6-10</sub>aryl and C<sub>2-6</sub>heteroaryl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR,

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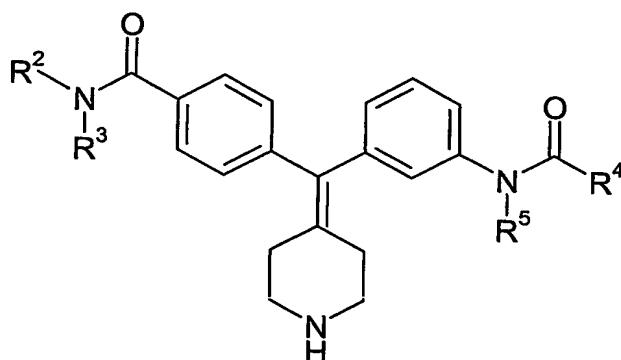
-SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl; and

X is Cl, Br or I.

10

13. A compound of formula III:



III

wherein

R<sup>2</sup>, R<sup>3</sup>, R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are, independently, selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl, wherein said C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl and C<sub>3-6</sub>cycloalkyl are optionally substituted with one or more groups selected from -R, -NO<sub>2</sub>, -OR, -Cl, -Br, -I, -F, -CF<sub>3</sub>, -C(=O)R, -C(=O)OH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -SH, -NHR, -NR<sub>2</sub>, -SR, -SO<sub>3</sub>H, -SO<sub>2</sub>R, -S(=O)R, -CN, -OH, -C(=O)OR, -C(=O)NR<sub>2</sub>, -NRC(=O)R, and -NRC(=O)-OR, wherein R is, independently, a hydrogen or C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl.